



From APRIL 2022 (Volume 124)





April 2022

Lynn was still recovering from Covid so I went alone to see the last day of a small exhibition at The RA and the paintings and catalogues got me thinking.

I have now accumulated nearly 135,000 digital photos (Plus of course 70 traditional albums of photos)

(The exact digital amounts are.... 134,724 Files, 3,500 Folders 577 GB (620,564,996,096 bytes).

I think that I would like to produce a new A3 Photo Book in the series**It's a Great World Out There..Part 5.** The contents, as always, would be totally varied. The artist, Jock MacFadyen was quoted as being a tourist without a guidebook and that seems to sum up my photos. Maybe anyone looking at these volumes will see how varied the subjects are and maybe the only differences now are that I include any shots that previously I might have rejected as 'not being pretty'.

I now think my views have changed and include very different aspects, many of which I would previously have rejected. Life has a beauty in many obscure settings, shapes, shadows, buildings, including the less obviously attractive side of life.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

I submit shots to Alamy but many of my early shots are not accepted as the original camera processor was not sophisticated enough to allow very large blow ups to be produced from these shots. However, for my A3-size maximum they are great and I will now start to sort out some interesting shots and hope the book will be the best yet.

May 2022

Just finished this volume and lots of photos are still waiting to be printed so the next book is already planned (in my mind anyway) Worldwide the news is pretty grim with the Ukraine war obviously dominating news medias. It still appears that the world will sit back while Russia continues its relentless unprovoked attack on a peaceful nation. Casualties are high with many civilians killed. The nuclear threat is what prevents outside interference but massive sanctions are now in place hoping to hit Russia where it hurts ...economically. Also arms are being provided to the Ukrainian people and as an outsider I can only watch in amazement that civilised countries can self-destruct in this manner. We seem to have a built in desire to bring civilisation to an end and maybe pandemics and this lunacy are nature's way of countering population explosion.

With the mobility of people now, poverty and war allows populations to scrape together fares (or pay people smugglers) and leave their homes and travel for long dangerous journeys seeking a promised 'better' future.. This obviously brings problems to their new adopted homes which can absorb these immigrants until times get bad and then these newcomers will be victims of persecution....and so the cycle continues.

I think countries and continents will have to step back and produce food and all living requirements locally. Of course export production and world trade alongside this is still necessary but total reliance on imports can not be sustained in the long term and it leaves the importers totally vulnerable. Germany's importing of oil from Russia via a massive pipeline is a easy illustration of this lunacy. This has now become a major political issue

Our supermarkets work on a system where sales are closely monitored by computerised data and replacements are ordered at the last minute, just when needed. This obviously avoids warehousing space and allied costs but as soon as there is a world shortage it is immediately felt in the supply train.

If I can see the potential dangers here surely there should be a rethink generally and now we have left the EU we should be able to look after our own interests. I think this is sensible but I am sure many will say I'm naïve!??



The Rocket, Euston Road

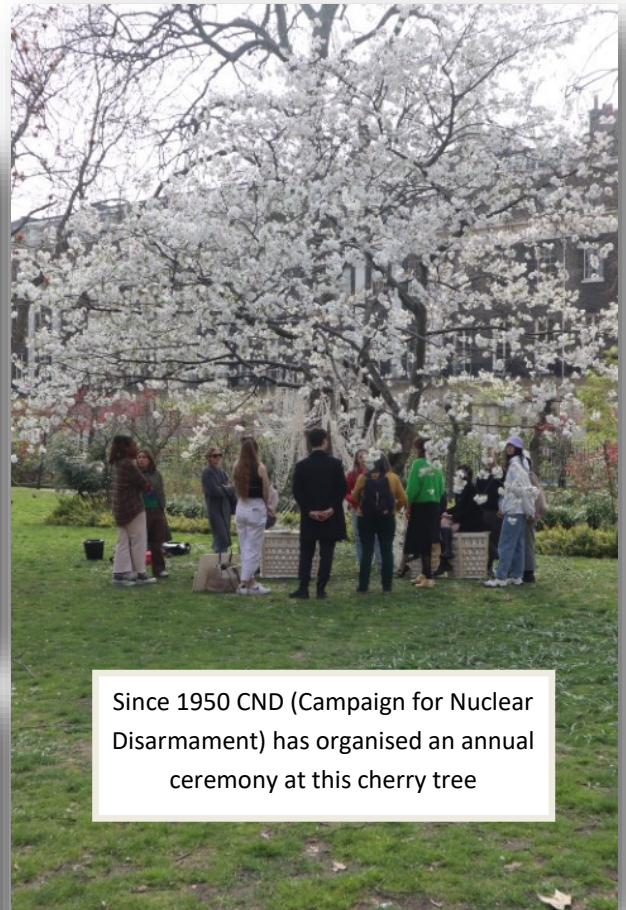


Elizabeth Garret Anderson Hospital.
The fascination of such different
adjacent architecture is amazing



I love the architecture detail of
King's Cross. We'll never see
architecture like this again





Since 1950 CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament) has organised an annual ceremony at this cherry tree

Woburn Walk is a pedestrian street in Bloomsbury, designed by architect Thomas Cubitt in 1822, and it is one of the first examples of a pedestrian shopping street in the Georgian era. Its name comes from Woburn Abbey, the main country seat of the Dukes of Bedford, who developed much of Bloomsbury





Beautiful


The widely disliked architecture of The Brunswick Centre shown here in all its glory. Amazingly it is listed in The National Heritage List for England. In 2000 The dual management has caused problems though, as the landlord restored the structure of the estate but the council is responsible for maintenance of the residential properties—so while the concrete structure was restored, the windows remained untouched, detracting from the overall aesthetic of the development. In 2007, the council started work on replacing the windows.



Probably the best thing about walking in London is these fantastic icons around every corner (see next pages too)



IMPERIAL HOTEL-RUSSELL SQUARE LONDON



NINE LONDON HOTELS
2500 ROOMS
Fitted with Central Heating and Hot & Cold Water, with Bath and Breakfast
7/9 TO 9/6

DAILY RATE FOR SINGLE ROOM AT EACH HOTEL
ONE PRICE ONLY

It had a fascinating history and has now been the beneficiary of a massive restoration project

"HOTEL RUSSELL"
"The Latest of the Sumptuous Hotel Palaces of Modern London"—World.

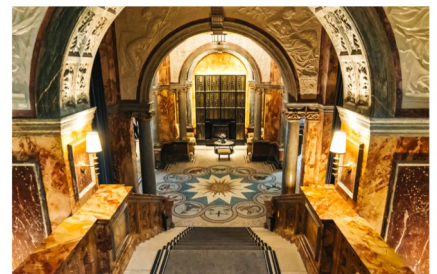


"HOTEL RUSSELL,"
RUSSELL SQUARE, LONDON.

"HOTEL RUSSELL,"
RUSSELL SQUARE, LONDON.

This handsome and superbly appointed Hotel is NOW OPEN for the reception of visitors. Prices same as at the popular and famous Hotel Great Central. Accommodation for 500 Guests. Proprietors: THE FREDERICK HOTELS, Ltd. Furnished and Decorated by Maple.

"HOTEL RUSSELL." LONDON





...and an architect studied for years
before producing this masterpiece

..bet his (or her) mum's
really proud of them





Photo History



The Horse Hospital is a Grade II listed not for profit, independent arts venue at Colonnade, Bloomsbury, central London.



Great Ormond Street is delightful and a few plant/flower boxes plus those great established trees are so beautiful



Photo History



London pub façades are so attractive ...and so different







Two different worlds...





The Inns of Court are always a venture into tradition and are a tranquil setting in a busy city



Inns of Court





The fascinating interior of The Blackfriars Pub where our walk terminated. This traditional pub with Henry Poole's Art Nouveau reliefs reflects the former medieval Dominican friary that once stood there. It was built in about 1875. The building was nearly demolished during a phase of redevelopment in the 1960s, until it was saved by a campaign spearheaded by poet Sir John Betjeman.







Photo History

April '22Dinner at Cyril and Viv's



Steve



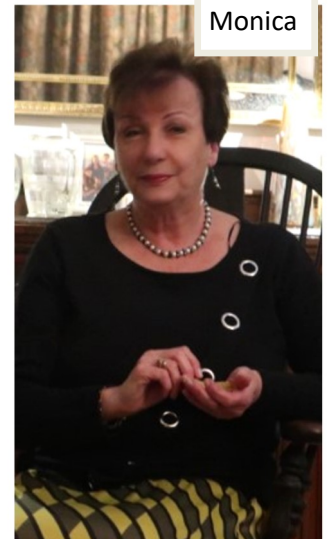
Cyril



Alan



Viv



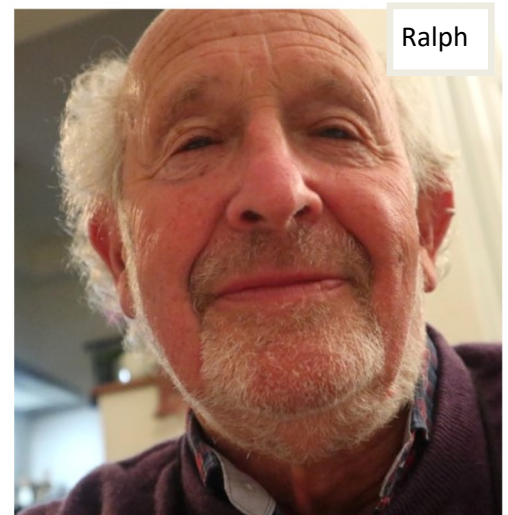
Monica



Liz



Lynn



Ralph

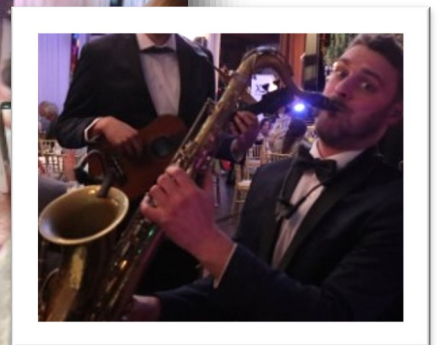
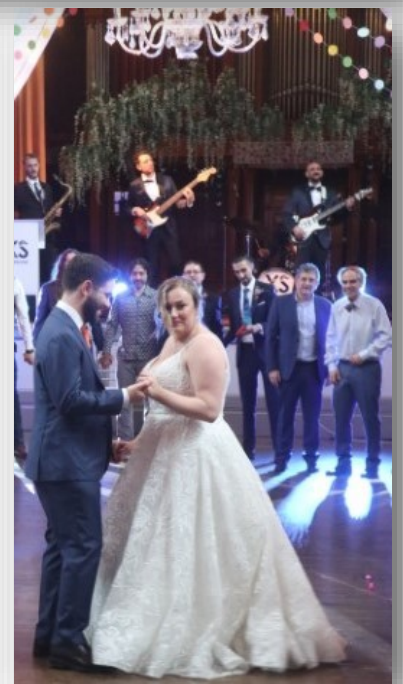
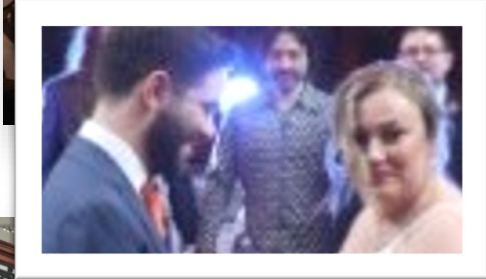


Josh & Louise Jackman's wedding in April '22





Photo History





Fairestow, our delightful b&b close to the wedding venue





Photo History





Buckhurst Park is an English country house and landscaped park in Withyham, East Sussex. It is the seat of William Sackville, 11th Earl De La Warr. The house is a Grade II listed building . Footpaths through the grounds were fabulous and the whole estate seemed very well managed





Photo History



A well on the estate



A rusted, disused water wheel



A herd of
deer on the
estate



A previous day of heavy gusts of wind had caused lots of damage to the woodlands



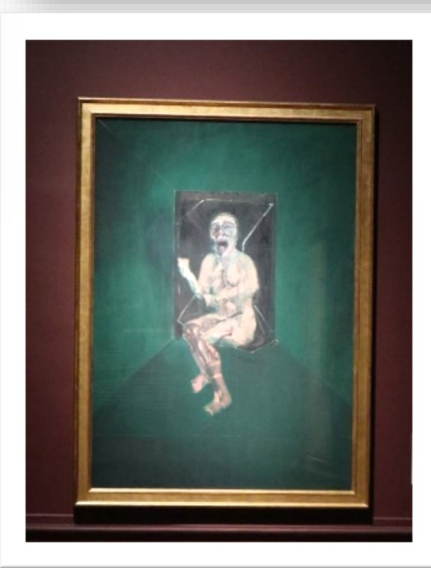
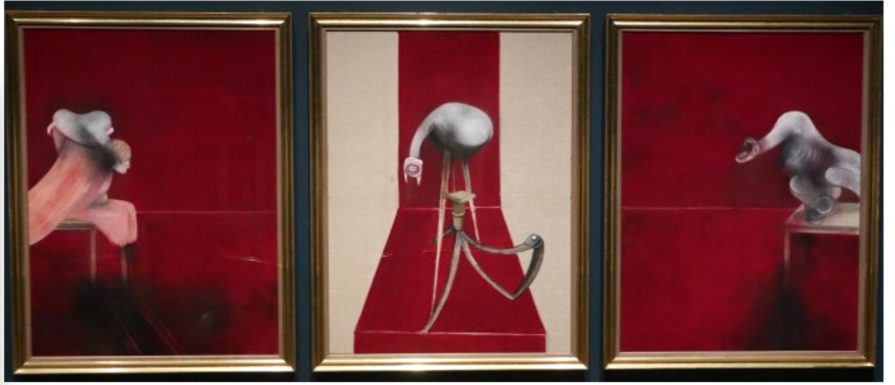


The estate had inherited a lovely 'herd' of Shetland ponies that were mostly very friendly





Photo History



The Bacon Exhibition at The RA







Photo History



In April '22 We worked in Grovelands clearing the litter and rubbish that had accumulated from the inflow to the lake. This involved us in wearing high warders and climbing a small ladder into the muddy surrounds. A channel was then cleared to allow a better flow into the lake but this had to be kept clear so , once cleared, strong thick branches from adjacent shrubs were hammered vertically into the lake bottom in pairs and tied together . Then bushier branches were inserted in the 'Y-shape' to catch future litter. The incoming water then passed through this brush wood, then the reeds and was much cleaner when entering the lake





Photo History



I really enjoy this volunteering and it is visibly so productive.. In the picture below the nesting swan can be seen ignoring us working round it. In the bottom picture she is on her nest and the Egyptian duck proudly shows her 8 new chicks





The last post??



Photo History



ON THE ALLOTMENT..

Lynn dug in all the potatoes
and then we relaxed with
our lunch

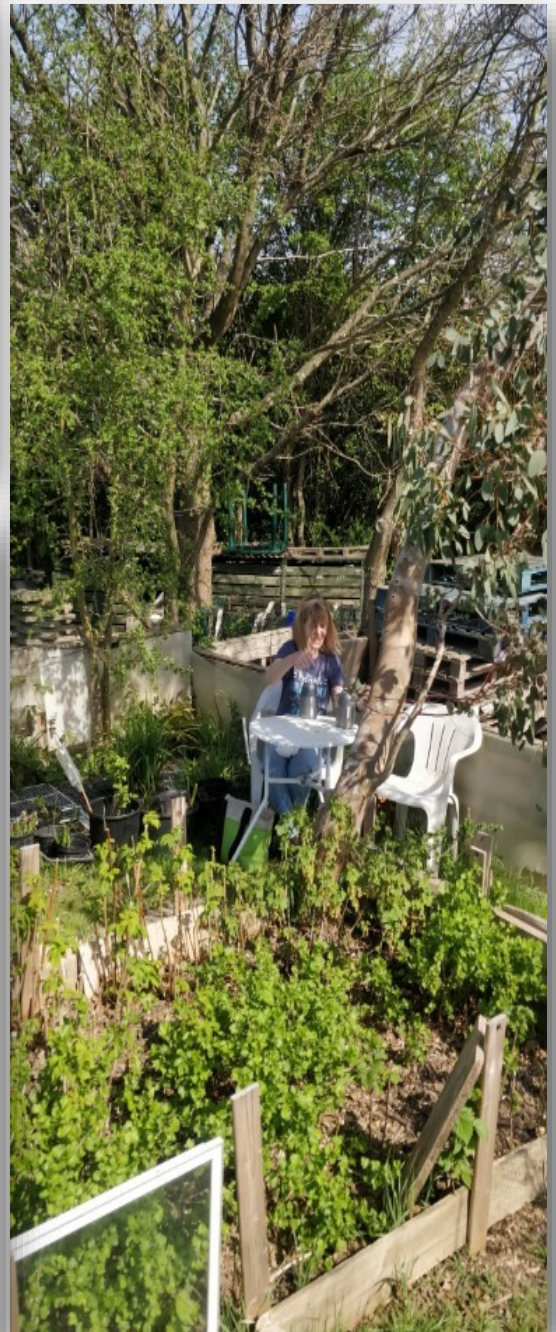




Photo History

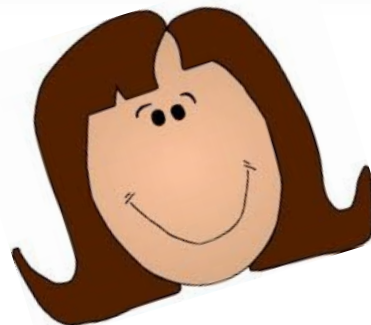
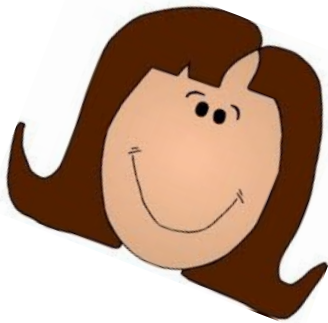


Extremely
fast growing
trees

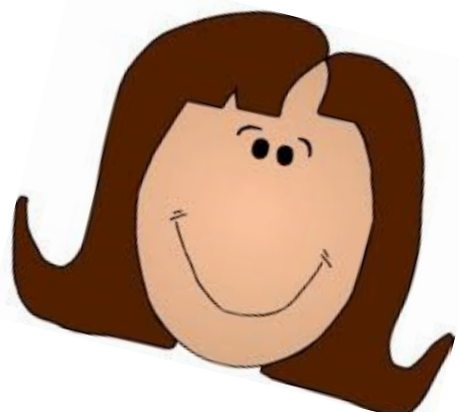




Photo History



Their wonderful smiles...





Yes...Our Groveland's Park is now officially recognised. It is on the London transport Piccadilly Line poster...yippee

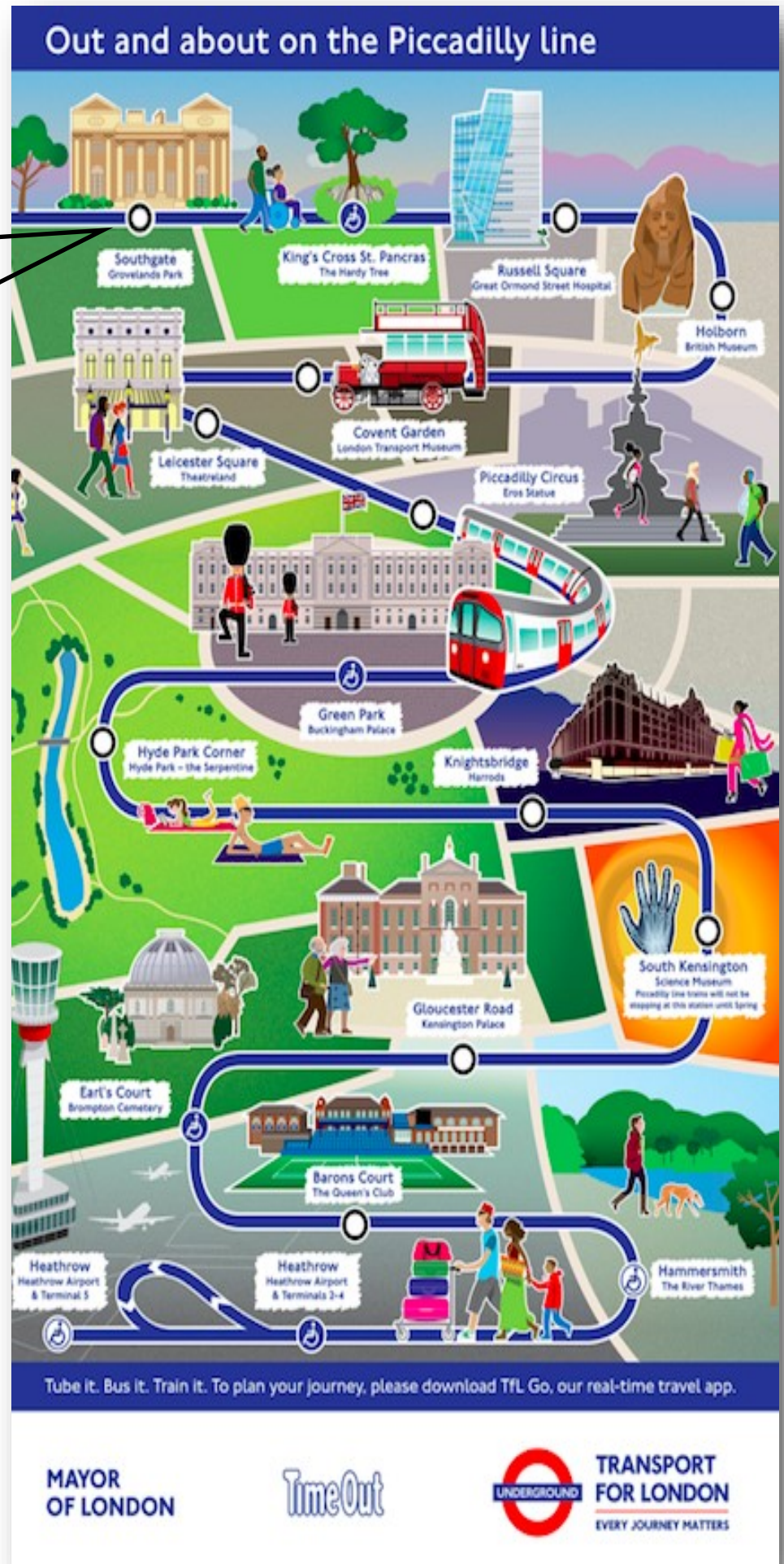




Photo History

Mid April is marked in our diaries as an essential visit to Hartwood Forest to see the wonderful natural bluebell display. To ensure they survive visitors keep to cordoned paths as once trodden on they can take years to recover



Langley Woods are an ancient woodland surrounded by newly planted woods and the whole area is very beautiful





Photo History

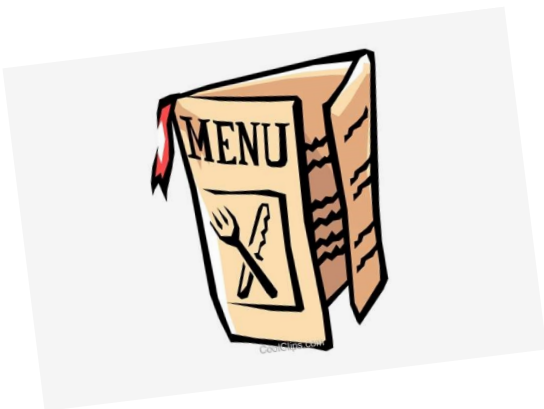




Photo History



The wonderment of that
bluebell display versus the
wonderment of that large
menu...a difficult decision





Beavers released in Enfield

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

A pair of Eurasian beavers have been released at Forty Hall Farm – the first introduced to London since the species became extinct in Britain in the 16th Century.

The male and female were set free inside a six-hectare woodland enclosure specially created for them, along a tributary of Turkey Brook. The male was transported from Yorkshire while the female came from Scotland.

A Twitter poll run by Enfield Council later decided that the pair would be named 'Justin Beaver' and 'Sigourney Beaver'. It is hoped Justin and Sigourney will mate and produce beaver kits.

Beavers have been making comeback in the UK over the last decade, with a population of several hundred now roaming Scotland's rivers and streams, with smaller groups dotted around England and Wales. The idea of introducing them within London was conceived a couple of years ago, with Enfield leading the way as a location thanks to the borough's extensive Green Belt land. The beaver reintroduction project is a collaboration between Enfield Council and Capel Manor College, which runs Forty Hall

go ahead, a licence was granted by the government.

After the beavers had been successfully released at the enclosure at Forty Hall Farm, Beaver Trust's restoration manager Roisin Campbell-Palmer told the Dispatch: "These are two very healthy animals and there is no reason why they won't do very well here."

"From a flood mitigation and biodiversity point of view, they will really benefit this area."

Beavers are well regarded by wildlife conservationists for their pivotal role in habitat restoration. By damming streams they slow down the flow and create new freshwater habitats where invertebrates and amphibians can thrive, while simultaneously reducing flood risk downstream.

Explaining the choice of location, Roisin said: "It is a complex, mature woodland with water running through it and that is ideal."

"As long as there is enough water, they can make their dam structures and it creates these large ponds. When we come back to this area in two years' time it will be much wetter, the tree canopy will be opened up, and we will get more amphibians and invertebrates and more species will be thriving."

Although they are nocturnal creatures, Roisin said the beavers can sometimes be seen on

splashing around in their ponds. No-one will be permitted to enter their enclosure, however there will be cameras set up that people can watch online.

Forty Hall Farm manager Angelika Hauses described the release of the two beavers as "magical" and added: "I found it quite beautiful to see them, the way they swim so gracefully."

"This woodland has been fairly empty [of wildlife] but now the beavers are going to use this wood to build a home and they will attract other creatures here as well."

Council leader Nesil Caliskan hopes the beavers will become a tourist attraction for nature lovers in the city. She said: "We know already from the reaction we have had that people will travel to Forty Hall to see these beavers. Forty Hall has always been an asset for the borough and we feel lucky to have these spaces."

Capel Manor College will now be involved in monitoring the progress of the beavers. Principal Malcolm Goodwin said: "We know how vital nature and biodiversity is for the health of the countryside and the wellbeing of the good people of Enfield. Our students know this too and they will have the opportunity to protect, monitor and understand the beavers and how they interact with their habitat and

The beaver enclosure in the ancient woodland at Forty Hall is now complete. It looks pretty forbidding and seems a lot of work for just two beavers but if they have young (kids?) it will be worth all the work us volunteers did in removing all the existing fence posts and wire. The galling part is that no mention of the work done by the volunteers is mentioned in the local paper. We don't expect a blue plaque engraved with all our names but a mention would be appreciated



Photo History





Lynn is always aware of the strange animals lurking around us in the woods





Photo History



On the way to meet the 'kids' in Bradford on Avon we stopped at Corsham which really impressed us. What drew us in was a superb shaped hedge falling over a wall. Shame the cars were there but the small town was delightful



.....yes, that is a peacock on the roof



Corsham Court remains in private ownership and is the home of **James Methuen-Campbell**, the eighth generation of the Methuens to live there. He succeeded to the Corsham Estate on the death of the Sixth Baron Methuen in 1994.



Photo History





Photo History



Bradford Wharf



The Old Forge in Bradford on Avon

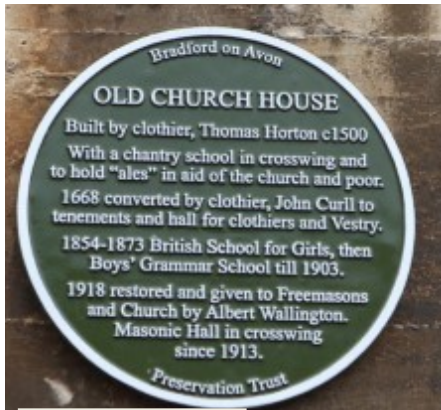


The delightful
old Victorian
tea rooms

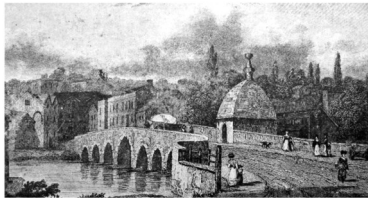


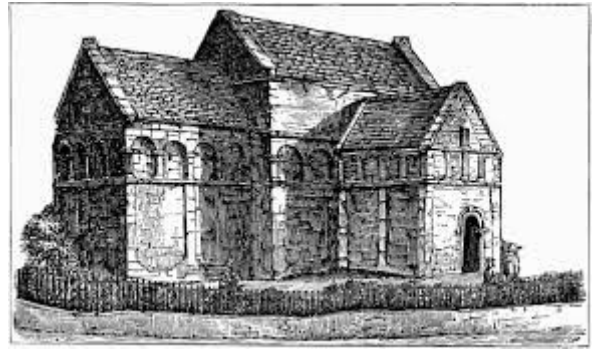


Photo History

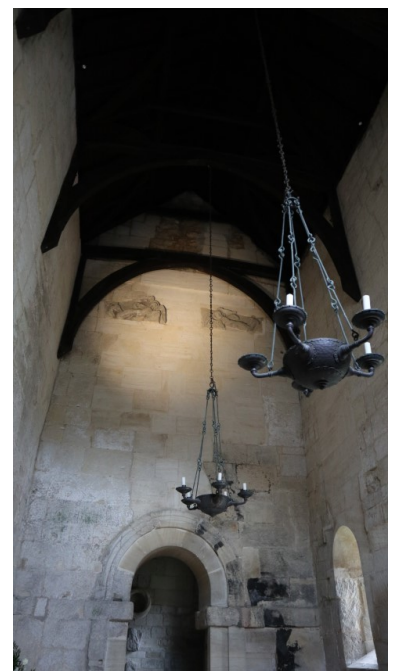


It is a delightful historic old mill town





This Saxon Church is absolutely wonderful



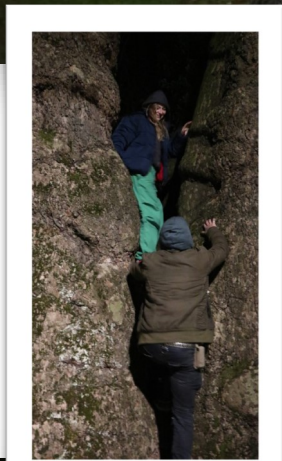


A memorable fantastic night was spent at Pablo's Bistro at Bradford-on-Avon. DP and Binky met us with Angela, Beau and Peachy and we had some great tapas plus a birthday cake with 'B' and 'B' inscription to celebrate Binky and Beau's birthdays

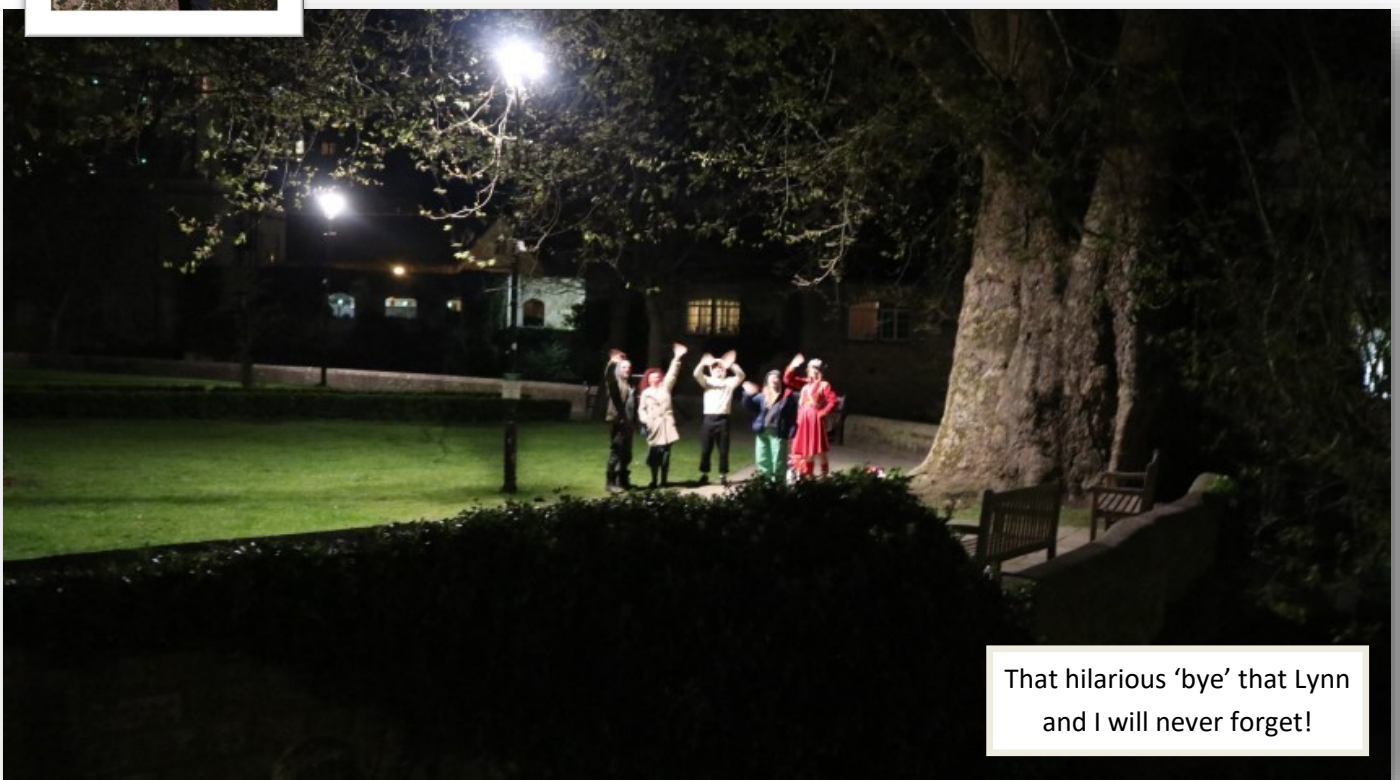


Great memories of a great night





"Surely trees are there to be
hugged or climbed"



That hilarious 'bye' that Lynn
and I will never forget!





And our final stop on the homeward drive was here at Castle Combe and The Manor House grounds were well tended and delightful and families made the most of the river running through the village .





Photo History



Now the majority of trees are planted, the new ponds which are part of the flood relief water management look very bare and artificial so we all got involved in water margin planting with different water loving plants. It was hard work with the constant bending but we feel sure the results will soon be very visible (unlike the slow-growing saplings)





Photo History



Our regular 'Gentleman's' Walk has now regained momentum and this month (April) we walked around South Mimms (Nice to walk locally for a change) It was very varied and surprisingly I did not know much of the route



The walk was alongside roads for a while but the fields and woods made up for this







The 'lads'

